

61 from the following more detailed description of the invention, particularly, when such detailed description is taken in conjunction with the attached drawing figures and with the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a top elevation view of a railway car coupler knuckle which has been modified in accordance with present invention; [and]

62 Figure 2 is a side view of the railway car coupler knuckle illustrated in Figure 1[.] ; and

Figure 3 is a partial cross sectional view taken along the lines III-III of Figure 1.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF A PRESENTLY PREFERRED AND VARIOUS ALTERNATIVE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

Prior to proceeding to the much more detailed description of the present invention [is] it should be noted that identical elements, having identical functions, have been identified with identical reference numerals throughout the several views which have been illustrated in the drawing figures for the sake of clarity and understanding of the invention.

Now reference is made, more particularly, to Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings. Illustrated therein [and] is a presently preferred embodiment of a railway freight car (not shown) coupler knuckle casting, generally designated 10. Coupler knuckle casting 10 has improved bearing surface area 12.

Such coupler knuckle casting 10 having the enhanced bearing surface area 12 includes a tail section, generally designated 20, and a hub section, generally designated 30. The hub section 30 having a pivot pinhole 14 formed therein. Such pivot pinhole 14 having generally straight cylindrical sidewalls 16.

A front face section 18 is connected to the hub section [20] 30. Such front face section 18 includes a nose section 22. In certain instances, such nose section 22 will, preferably include a generally cylindrical opening 24 formed in an end portion 26 of such nose section 22. The front face section 18 further includes a pulling face portion 28 formed inwardly from such nose section 22. At least a portion of such front face portion 18 and the nose section 22 includes an enhanced bearing surface area 12 which includes a substantially flat portion 32 disposed substantially in a vertical direction and which is substantially arcuate in a horizontal direction. The substantially flat portion 32 extending for a predetermined distance in such vertical direction and for a predetermined length along the horizontal direction.

A transition section 34 joins such tail section 20 to the hub section 30. The transition section 34 includes a top metal section and a bottom metal section extending toward each other.